

**North-Pindos self-guided:
8-day medium level hiking tour with 6 stages in the
Zagoria and Vikos gorge 2024 (PZWT214I)**

**May be shortened, altered or extended with
more hiking and/or free days.**

RENEWED PROGRAM 2024



Our hiking philosophy: active during the day, and in the afternoon a warm shower, a good meal and a comfortable bed in a small-scale accommodation.

We invite you to join us!

more information: www.annahiking.nl



About AnnaHiking

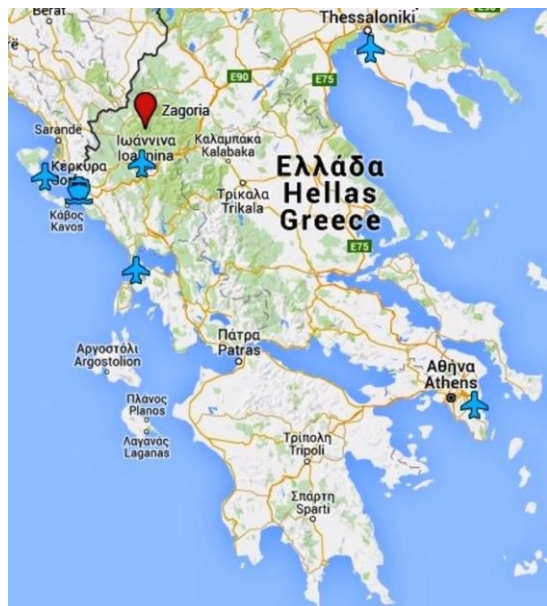
In 1991 we visited Greece for the first time. Our love for the country, the culture, the climate, the food, the language and the Greek has grown ever since. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

Many people are familiar with the Greek beaches: is there more? Sure! The mountainous mainland offers the traditional way of living, close to nature. Here you won't find beaches, but gurgling streams with waterfalls, small houses hugging the mountainside and welcoming people.

We explored several hiking routes and described them in detail. We regularly revise the routes and the description where necessary. As an individual traveller we offer you these descriptions together with GPS-tracks and marked detailed maps, so you can find your way easily. We also offer you an information package with background information, tips for the best meals and several other useful trivia.



The tour location



General tour information



The Pindos mountain range runs along the borders of Epiros and Thessalia provinces in the northwestern mainland of Greece.

The net walking time is between 3¼ and 5 hours (excluding the breaks). You may extend your stay in all accommodations; we offer more hikes from some locations (see [Possible extra walks](#)).

Most walks are on narrow and sometimes steep mountain paths. Generally the paths are cleared and well marked. You will find loose stones on your path and steep drop-offs on the sides. You must be sure-footed and fit and not prone to vertigo.

We advise you to start the tour well trained and prepared with



well worn-in ankle-high walking boots.

This is a hiking tour for active people who like to have the time to enjoy the peace and nature of the Greek mountains.

Modular set-up: extensions/alterations/abbreviations

The arrangement can be shortened, extended with walks and free days in the Zagoria or combined with a mini-trekking or walks along the Corfu Trail (Kerkyra). We'll gladly advise you about the logistics.

You might also stay some days in Ioannina to explore the city and its environment.

Of course you may also travel on to another destination in Greece. We'll gladly offer advice.

For all your wishes: ask for an estimate!

Walking in the North Pindos

The area has been inhabited since 5000 b.C. In the 4th century b.C. many fortifications were built, but little is still visible. The golden age was from 1200 to the start of the Turkish domination in 1430. The famous Plakida or Kalogeros bridge was only built in 1865, when the Turks had as good as left.

The inhabitants lived from agriculture, cattle breeding and trade. Only recently has some income been gained from (mostly Greek) tourism. Still not many people live here, especially not in winter. In summer Greek daytrippers and weekend guests come to admire the bridges and enjoy the fresh air and lovely food.

Wolves and bears still exist in the woods, although the chance of an encounter is very rare.

The North Pindos is famous for its Zagoria villages with their stone houses and paved mule paths (kalderimia), the characteristic stone formations that look like piles of coins (schists) and the Vikos Gorge.

You walk along and above the Vikos gorge. According to the Guinness book of records this is the deepest gorge in the world: 900m deep at the narrowest point. (Deeper gorges like the Grand Canyon are not this narrow.)

During the walks you'll view the Tymfi mountain range with the highest peaks Astraka (2430m) and Gamila (2495m).

The accommodations

You'll stay in lovely guest houses and small-scale hotels built in the Zagorian style: thick stone walls, cool in summer (but may be chilly in spring and autumn!). All accommodations have a courtyard or patio inviting you to relax. The hotel in Monodendri boasts a small swimming pool.

Most accommodations offer an excellent local cuisine where the food is prepared with love and expertise. In most villages you may also choose from several other tavernas.





Bookable

The arrangement is bookable in the periods from 1 April until 31 July and from 1 September until 26 October.

Prices per person 2024

# travellers	room type	1-4 / 15-5 & 1-10 / 26-10	16-5 / 17-6 & 1-9 / 30-9	18-6 / 31-7	surcharge national holidays
solo	single	€ 1345	€ 1310	€ 1320	€30
2 pax	2x single	€ 960	€ 925	€ 935	€30
2 pax	double/twin	€ 785	€ 765	€ 775	€30
3 pax	double/twin + single	€ 715	€ 690	€ 700	€30
3 pax	triple	€ 595	€ 580	€ 585	€30
4 pax	2x double/twin	€ 605	€ 585	€ 595	€30

Note:

- If your tour is around one of the Greek holidays (Easter, Pentecost, 1 May): surcharge of €30 per person and little availability unless you book early.
- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- For other group sizes contact us for an estimate.
- From January 1st 2018 in Greece an 'overnight tax' is applicable. This tax has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. Tourorganisations are not allowed by law to pay this tax.

The rates per room per night were until 2023: € 0,50 for 2*-hotels, € 1,50 for 3*-hotels, € 3,00 for 4*-hotels and € 4,00 for 5*-hotels.

It seems they'll be lifted to: €1,50 for 2*-hotels, €3,00 for 3*-hotels, €7,00 for 4*-hotels and €10,00 for 5*-hotels.

Start and finish: Ioannina bus station or airport.

Included

- 7 overnight stays including breakfast.
- A hiking map of the Zagoria region. If you live within the EU we'll send it to your home address, otherwise you'll get it at the first accommodation.
- Detailed route descriptions and marked maps of each walk according to the program; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- GPS-tracks, sent by WeTransfer.
- Information package with background information and information about catering, shops and facilities; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- All transfers and luggage transports according to the program.

Not included

- Flight and insurances.



- Overnight tax (see above).
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses. Packed lunch can be bought from the accommodations.
- Transfers not mentioned in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under “included”.

Own travel expenses and flight

You travel to Ioannina on your own account; we gladly advise you about the possibilities. For more information you may download our [document with possible logistics](#).

Ioannina may be reached in the following ways:

- Flight on Ioannina, always with flight change in Athens.
- Flight on Thessaloniki, Preveza Akti or Athens, public bus to Ioannina.
- Flight on Corfu, ferry to Igoumenitsa and public bus to Ioannina. Very suitable should you wish to extend your stay on Corfu (we offer a walking mini-trekking and beach accommodation).

We can arrange transportation from Thessaloniki or Preveza Akti airport or from Igoumenitsa harbour. Ask for an estimate.

Luggage

You carry a day pack with water, lunch, warm and rainproof clothing, possibly swimming gear, items for personal care, binoculars/camera etc.

The remaining luggage stays in the accommodation or is transferred.

Before departure we'll send you a list with essential and advised items.





Day to day program

(You can download the elevation profiles separately.)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

Day 1: To Mikro Papingo

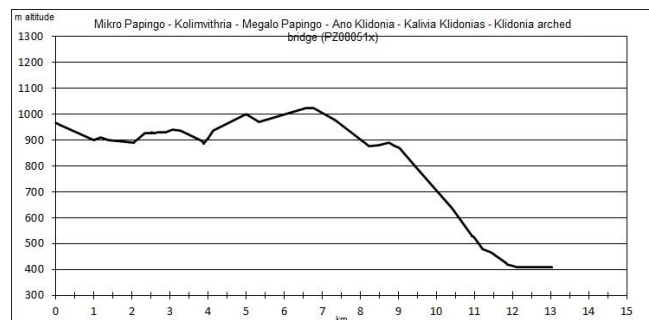
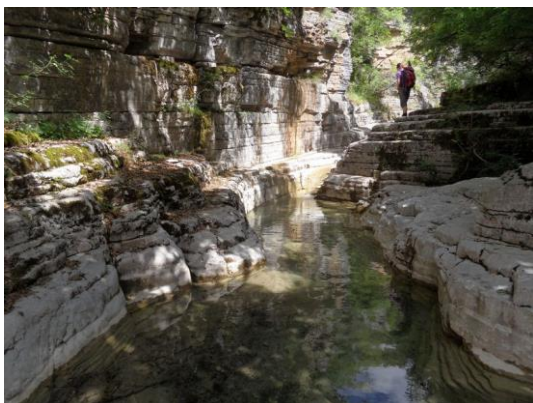


You travel on your own to Ioannina, where you'll be met and taken to the accommodation in Mikro ('Small') Papingo. It's a charming village, quietly situated where the asphalt road ends. You may relax on the shadowed court with view on the 'Towers of Papingo', the mountains opposite the village. The owners, the Tsoumanis brothers, are fine cooks.

Should you have the time, you may walk in a quarter of an hour to the 'Kolimvithria' or 'Ovires', natural pools which in summer months are dammed to form a swimming pool. You may enjoy a cooling swim and explore the river upstream: a green paradise!

overnight stay: Mikro Papingo

Day 2: Via the 'Ovires' pools to Kato Klidonia (PZ08051x)



From Mikro Papingo you'll descend by the quiet asphalt road to the 'Kolimvithria' or 'Ovires', the natural pools between both Papingo villages. Had you visited those the day before, you may also take a path along a small arched bridge.

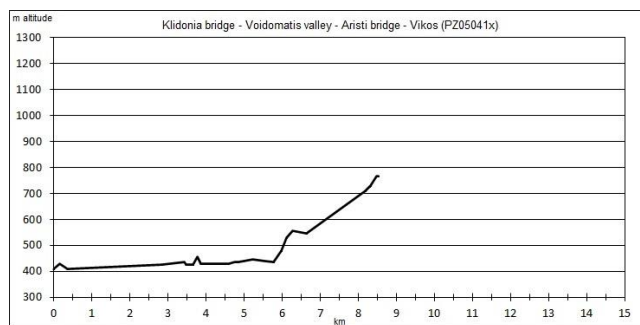
Past the neighbouring village Megalo ('Big') Papingo you'll follow a path along the slope with views on Vikos village and gorge towards Ano Klidonia. Then you descend from Ano ('Upper') Klidonia to the village Kato ('Lower') Klidonia with the historical arched bridge.

Your accommodation is close to this Klidonia arched bridge.

walking time/distance: 4h25' / 12,7km

ascent/descent: 250m / 815m

overnight stay: Kato Klidonia

**Day 3: Through the Voidomatis plane valley to Vikos (PZ05041x)**

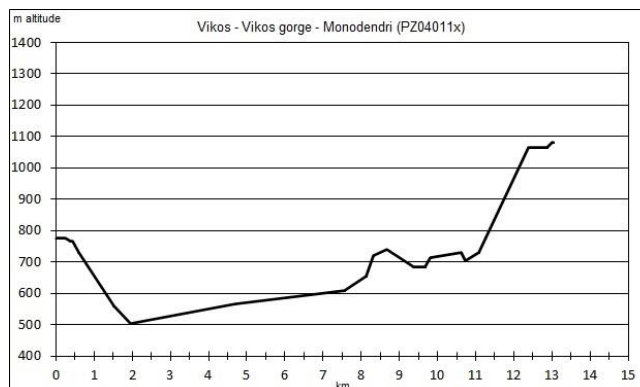
From the Klidonia arched bridge you'll follow the plane valley along the Voidomatis river. On your way you may spot trout swimming in the clearest water of Greece and admire the swoop of dippers, kingfishers and wagtails.

Out of the valley you descend to the Aristi bridge, also a lovely spot to dip into the river. By a path you ascend to Vikos village, where you may make a small circular walk to a viewpoint into the Vikos gorge.

walking time/distance: 3h15' / 9,5km

ascent/descent: 450m / 75m

overnight stay: Vikos

Day 4: Through the Vikos gorge to Monodendri (ZW04011x)

You walk down to the bottom of the Vikos gorge, an easy descent. Having arrived at the bottom you may make a small detour (5 minutes) to the Voidomatis springs: these spouts offer almost all year through a marvellous sight!

From here you'll gradually ascend by a mostly well passable path until the Klima spring (not always working!). Past the spring you'll encounter some climbs and clattering over the rocks of the gorge bottom.

The last 350 meters altitude along the 'Monodendri steps' are hefty and then you'll reach the lovely village. The square with the plane tree and cafes will entice you for a drink and then it's only 10 more minutes to the accommodation.

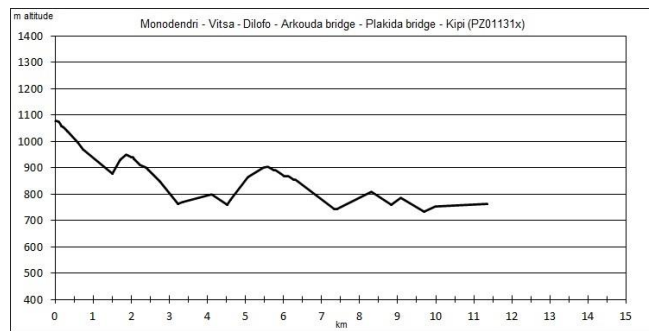
walking time/distance: 4h45' / 13,0km

ascent/descent: 655m / 350m

overnight stay: Monodendri



Day 5: The Zagoria arched bridges to Kipi (PZ01131x)



A quiet walk along some of the famous stone arched bridges of the Zagoria.

By a forest path you ascend to the lovely village Vitsa. From there you continue to Dilofo, a traditional and sleepy village. Descending again you reach the small Arkouda bridge. Upwards and downwards again you reach the famous three-arched bridge Plakida or Kaloyero. Past a stretch of forest next to the stream you reach Kipi.

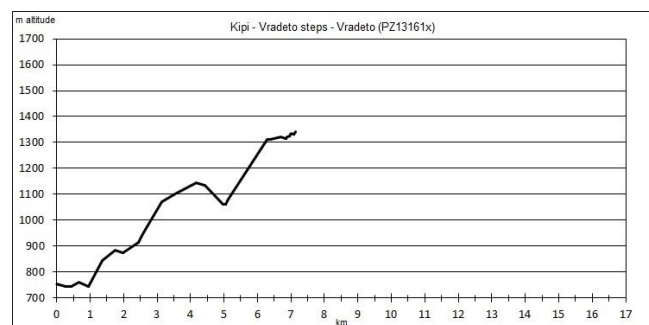
The taverna opposite of the hotel had the same owner and offers lovely meals.

walking time/distance: 4h15' / 11,4km

ascent/descent: 370m / 685m

overnight stay: Kipi

Day 6: By the Vradeto steps to Vradeto village (PZ13161x)



You start ascending towards Kapesovo and veer to the famous 'Vradeto Steps', a paved path winding along the mountain slope. In spring you'll find lots of flowers and you may even see bear tracks. The path ends in Vradeto village.

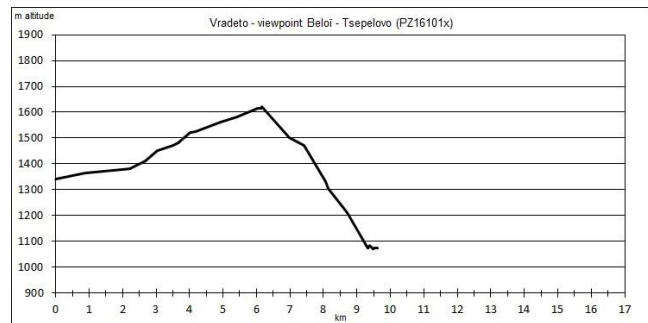
walking time/distance: 3h10' / 7,1km

ascent/descent: 715m / 130m

overnight stay: Vradeto



Day 7: Along the viewpoint Beloï to Tsepelovo (PZ13161x)



A country road and then a well-restaured kalderimi take you to Beloï. The view from the Beloï balcony into the Vikos gorge is stunning!

You walk back a bit along the same kalderimi and the veer to the left. From there it's upwards again untill you reach a barren rocky plateau. After the plateau you descend by a lovely path with view on Tsepelovo, where the walk ends on the lively square with its big plane trees.

walking time/distance: 3h30' / 9,6km

ascent/descent: 295m / 560m

overnight stay: Tsepelovo

Day 8: Departure

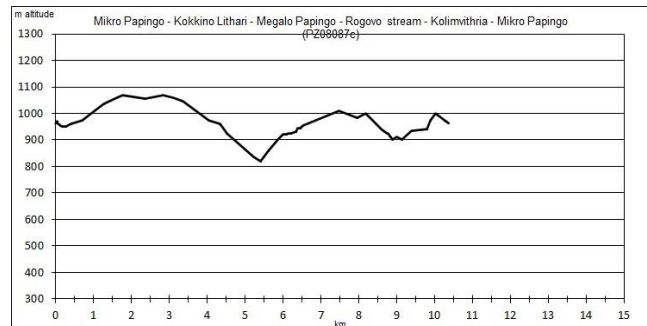
You're taken back to Ioannina.



Possible extra walks

From Mikro Papingo

Circular walk Kokkino Lithari and Rogovo (PZ08087c)



Forest paths and a small stretch of asphalt road, along a viewpoint, river and a village. First you go to the "Kokkino Lithari", the "Red Rock". At the foot of a stretch of red stone you have a wonderful view over the mountainside. You pass the Potistres river (usually wading untill June!) and arrive in Megalo Papingo.

From Megalo Papingo you ascend along a gravel road with lovely views until you've reached the Rogovo stream. You follow a path downstream, along the Rogovo, via a ridge west of the stream. You reach the asphalt road near the natural pools of the Rogovo which you may visit. In summer usually the pools are dammed so you can swim, so do bring your swimsuit and water sandals!

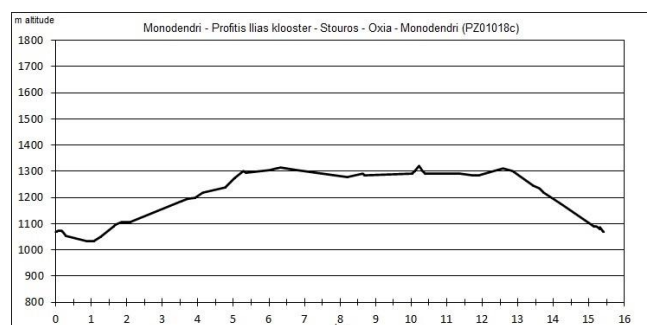
walking time/distance: 3h45' / 10.4km

ascent/descent: 455m

overnight stay: Mikro Papingo

From Monodendri

Circular walk Oxia and the Stone Forest (ZW01018c)



From Monodendri you'll descend by kalderimia and asphalt until a small archeological site (closed). From there you'll ascend by forest paths until the deserted Profitis Ilias monastery. Again a stretch of asphalt and then you keep ascending by dirt roads and paths until the Stouros plateau, cattle area.

A long stretch through a flat meadow, in spring abundant with flowers, butterflies and grasshoppers, until the viewpoint Oxia. From the balcony you watch the Vikos gorge 900m



below you. You descend through the 'stone forest' with the particular Zagorian piles of stone (schists). An easy descent by a lovely forest path brings you in Monodendri village.

In the afternoon you may make a short tour through Monodendri taking in the small Agia Paraskevi monastery on the cliffs and two more viewpoints.

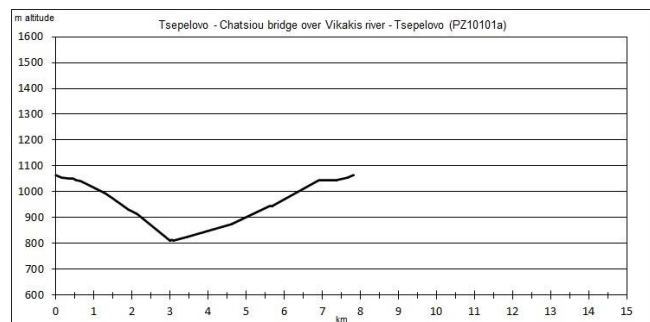
walking time/distance: 4h30' / 15.4km

ascent/descent: 365m

overnight stay: Monodendri

From Tsepelovo

Circular walk Vikakis river and Chatsiou arched bridge (PZ10101a)



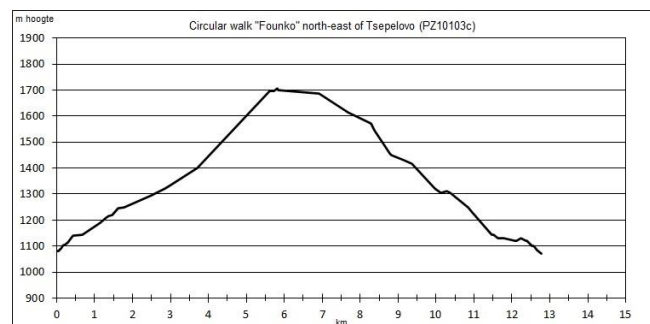
Easy round trip by dirt roads from Tsepelovo down to the Vikakis gorge with the Chatsiou arched bridge. By a different route back to Tsepelovo.

walking time/distance: 2h15' / 7.8km

ascent/descent: 260m

overnight stay: Tsepelovo

Circular walk Founko plateau (PZ10103c)



Country roads and cattle paths through a marvellous limestone landscape. You'll very likely encounter rock thrush!

walking time/distance: 4h10' / 12.8km

ascent/descent: 640m

overnight stay: Tsepelovo